of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Celluar Phone Service Providers have failed to pay the annual licence fee due from them seeking a moratorium of two years;

(b) if so, whether Government are likely to accede to their request; and

(c) if so, on what grounds?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Majority of the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Providers have paid their Annual Licence Fee on schedule. However, some Cellular Service Providers have asked for postponement of Payment of licence fees. A request seeking moratorium of two years on payment of licence fee has been received from the Cellular Operators Association of India, New Delhi. Some Operators have made such a request to their individual capacity also.

(b) No such policy decision has been taken.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Private Sector Participation in Internet Services

795. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering gamut of issues surrounding the internet-policy in India and formulate appropriate guidelines pertaining to private sector participation in internet services;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal received by Government from Private Sector Internet Service Providers and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the present status of the decision taken in this regard; and

(d) by when a final decision is likely to be taken and the details of the action plan for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have taken a decision in the first week of November, 1997, to allow Private Sector participation in Internet Services. Various issues relating to such a participation have been sorted out. Detailed guidelines and licensing conditions are being finalised.

(b) A large number of Private parties have shown interest in becoming Internet Service providers (ISPs). They will be invited to set up Internet Access Networks as soon as the detailed guidelines and licensing conditions are finalised.

(c) and (d) As per (a) and (b) above.

AMS-PG seats for outsiders

796. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR
SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post-graduation seats in hospitals and institutions under Army Medical Serivces (AMS) are primarily meant for PG students of AMS;

(b) if so, whether a number of PG seats were given to outside non-AMS students, during 1993 onward; if so, the stream-wise seats so given to outsiders, year-wise, and the reasons therefor, indicating the in-service applicants stream-wise who were deprived of the opportunities; and

(c) the rules of guidelines governing allocation of such PG-study, opportunity in the AMS hospitals and institutions indicating the provisions for interservices allocation and for offering opportunities to outsides?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, PG seats which are not availed of by the service personnel are offered to other categories like foreign sponsored candidates, ex-SSC officers, locally posted officers and, lastly, if any seat remains they are offered to Civilian Doctors. Thus, no in-service applicants are deprived of the opportunity.

(c) All Post Graduate seats in the Service Institutions are allotted strictly on the basis of merit-cum choice following a Central PG entrance examination. Service officers who, on study leave, join AFMC, Pune, for super specialisation, however, do not have to go through a written test for admission. AFMS service personnel have prior claim to all the PG seats depending upon the service requirements.